



City Profile



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2012 HAPPY CENTENNIAL NEW MEXICO



WE ARE FORTUNATE TO EXPERIENCE THE RICH HISTORY AND LANDSCAPES THAT SURROUND US.

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT

With the Centennial Celebrations happening each week here in the Tularosa Basin, we will certainly see an increase in tourists and renewed interest in our city and state over the coming year. But why wait? You don't have to be a tourist to discover and appreciate the beauty of Alamogordo and its unique location in our state.

With over 100 years of activity and settlement in the basin, the region is home to historical landmarks, stories and legends. Amazing scenery, camping, hiking, fishing and other recreational activities are found throughout the area.

Head just North to see the amazing outdoor art museum of over 21,000 Petroglyphs at Three Rivers. Or take a hike in the twisted black lava remains at the Valley of Fires. If art and nature aren't what you seek, travel to Trinity Site and stand where the first Atomic Bomb was tested and the atomic age began!

A short drive to the east and you will find yourself in the beautiful Sacramento Mountains. Rich with camping, hiking, hunting, skiing and historic landmarks like the Lodge, the mountains offer hours of activities for everyone in the family. Take an afternoon and head to Billy the Kid Country in Old Lincoln County. Visit the courthouse and feel the bullet holes left in the building where William H.

Bonny made his escape. Maybe a nice afternoon of fishing is more your speed. Bonito Lake boasts a haunted history as well as a healthy supply of trout.

Travel west and visit the gypsum hills of White Sands National Monument. Hike by moonlight or take a tour of Lake Lucero for a history lesson on how the dunes formed and learn about the incredible plant and animal life indigenous to the area.

Journey South and visit Oliver Lee State Park and beautiful dog canyon. Arrange a tour ahead of time to learn more about Oliver Lee, Frenchy and what it was like to be a 19th Century rancher. Camping Picnicking and Hiking are all activities allowed at the park.

If the wind isn't blowing you in any particular direction, stay here in the heart of Alamogordo and visit Alameda Park Zoo, the oldest zoo in the southwest. Explore space at the New Mexico Museum of Space History or catch a film at the IMAX. You can always enjoy the wonderful performances at the Flickinger Center or take a stroll through the Tularosa Basin Historical Museum.

Alamogordo and the surrounding area possess unique and endearing qualities. Sometimes as "locals", we lose sight of what is right in front of us. We are fortunate to live here and experience the rich history and landscapes surrounding us. So get out and enjoy your community and let's continue its growth and prosperity over the next 100 years!



QUALITY OF LIFE INITIATIVES

By Ron Griggs, Mayor

The majority of us came to Alamogordo from somewhere else. Some of us really like it here, some of us like it here but miss things that we had access to in other places, and some of us are looking for another place to try. Which-ever category you fall into, please know that

the Alamogordo City Commission wants Alamogordo to be a place you are proud to call home. We have enacted ordinances that promote economic activity and spend millions of dollars each year to provide recreational and intellectual pursuits for our citizens.

We are currently in the process of refinancing



an existing bond issue to take advantage of historically low interest rates. This refinancing will also generate a little over 4 million dollars for quality of life improvement projects. Our payments will remain approximately the same.

Quality of Life
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INSIDE:

Otero County
Film Office



Elections & Candidate
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GETTING TO KNOW...**The Otero County Film Office**

Jan Wafful says that Otero County Film Office is all about economic development for the City of Alamogordo and all of Otero County. Ms. Wafful, who has served as the Otero County Film Liaison since 2006, has a professional background that includes almost 18 years municipal service, public and private sector management, and computer systems administration. Upon appointment, she became an AFCI Film Liaison and holding that AFCI registration is a mark of excellence in the industry. All New Mexico film offices work under the state's Economic Development Department (EDD), and the Otero office works as a division of the Otero County Economic Development Council.

What services does the film office provide?

The Otero County Film Office is a non-profit one-stop shop for film and production permits, goods and services, referrals, casting information and filming locations. Once a location scout contacts the office, immediate responses are initiated with location pictures, suggested sites, and location information. Location scout outings are arranged, and location managers, producers, and directors are taken throughout Otero County scouting all the location sites, public and private, that are of interest to the filmmaker. Once locations are chosen, then the film office moves to the aspect of serving all segments of the filming production needs, from locating extras and production assistants to providing vendor listings of products and services available and called for. In short, assistance is given for everything to meet the demands of individual filmmaking projects while maintaining absolute confidentiality for each project.

How many films have been made in Otero County? This year is Otero County's 100th year of Filmmaking!

New Mexico has had a long history of filmmaking with the first film produced in New Mexico's northern pueblo by Thomas Edison in 1898. Historically, the earliest filmmaking locally, are two short films documented as being made in Otero County in 1911, making this year the Otero County's 100th year of filmmaking. During that time, over 55 feature-length films are listed officially on the benchmarked Internet Movie Data Base (IMDB). The film office website, www.filmotero.com has a partial listing of the more recent projects including some of these features: *Afterwards*, *Year One*, *Transformers I & II*, *The Land of Space & Time*, *Men Who Stare At Goats*, *Stargate-Universe*, *A&E Extreme Ghosthunters*, *The Book of Eli*, and the 2010 feature- *This Must Be The Place*. Currently there are others in production on an ongoing basis. Presently,

Otero County averages about 70 productions a year, including commercials, documentaries, television, fashion, music video, independent and feature film combined.

What are some of the challenges facing the Otero County film industry today?

Otero faces several challenges in regard to our future film industry growth. As residents know, there is no studio facility or sound stage in the Otero area. State of the art facilities, even better than those offered in Hollywood itself, are concentrated in the northern part of the state. A small post-production facility is a viable possibility here, and a ranch setting with permanent western sets that could be used repeatedly, like Bonanza Creek ranch outside Santa Fe, have been hoped for. Inquiries and plans have been speculated upon for these things, but as of this date, nothing has been set aside for such a purpose. There are also legislative concerns with the state's film incentives program being upheld or expanded. New Mexico brought in industry professionals and developed a ground-breaking incentive program and was the very first state to offer such a program. 42 other states followed suit and offered even more generous programs—but the New Mexico program is a proven functioning program that others have, so far, had no success in duplicating. The good news is that despite these challenges, New Mexico programs and the southern placement of Otero County---the business of film is here to stay. White Sands, three mountain ranges, a national forest and proximity to alpine resorts, geological formations and anomalies, space, military and western heritage, and even the desert itself with the climate and sunshine days needed for filming---all contribute to making the sweeping landscapes, iconic locations and majestic sunsets of Otero County appealing to all types of filmmakers.

What is the greatest asset of the Otero County Film Office?

Without question, it is the people of Otero County. Time and again, filmmakers, directors and producers have sworn to return, in spite of the more remote location, and the lack of organized studios, it is the people they compliment, and the way that they are treated here. Citizens of Otero County are friendly and warm, greeting film projects with pleasure, expressing interest and being helpful if needed, and then leaving them in the privacy needed to pursue their craft. The Otero County Film Office considers this the highest of all compliments, and it is very satisfying to see the local economic impacts upon the community as the New Mexico film industry continues to move forward. NM Film Works. For more information check out the state website www.nmfilm.com and the local www.filmotero.com.

Quality of Life
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The additional revenue will be used for a variety of projects that make our community more enjoyable. Some of the projects on the list are: A spray park at the Family Recreation Center, substantial interior improvements at the Family Recreation Center and the Library, new lights at the Tennis Courts, improvements at both Griggs and Hooser complexes,



improvements to the Skateboard Park, a new primate exhibit and a new entrance for our Zoo, a trail along Walker Road, a new home for the Historical Society, a BMX track, new bunkers for the Golf Course, and we will purchase land and build a new park in the center of town.



All of us live here for one reason or another. It is my hope and the hope of the commission that the items on this list will make Alamogordo a better place for you, your children or your grandchildren. Please take advantage of these and the many other things our city and area has to offer and enjoy the new year. Together we can make it a great one for Alamogordo.



Visit us on the web
<http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/>



CITY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES NEEDED

By Mark Roath, City Manager

The clock is ticking for interested citizens who want a chance to be more involved in Alamogordo's decision-making process, and directing its future. Alamogordo will have four Commission seats on the March 2012 ballot, so citizens interested in one of those seats, will need to file on **Tuesday, January 10, 2012.**

A lack of candidates for the Alamogordo City Commission has been a problem in the past. This election year; however, the City Commission has attempted to address part of that problem by increasing the benefits provided for newly elected commission members, beginning with those elected on or after March 2012. Commissioners that are currently serving are not eligible for these benefits during their existing term.

In November, 2011, the City Commission adopted Ordinance No. 1409 that increased the benefits paid new commissioners beginning with the 2012 election. The Ordinance, along with what was currently authorized in the City

Charter for the Commission members, will mean that the next Mayor will receive \$10,200 for annual expenses (assuming he/she is newly elected), and each of the new commissioners will receive \$7,200 annually for expenses. Additionally, each new commissioner will be eligible for medical, dental and vision at no cost. And, finally, each new commissioner will be allowed to use City facilities such as Alameda Park Zoo, Bonito Lake, Convenience Center, Family Recreation Center, and Golf Course at no cost as well.

Whether or not the financial benefit mentioned above will generate good people to run for office is debatable. However, it can only help. As Commissioner Joe Ferguson said during the debate over Ordinance No. 1409 on October 25, 2011, "Part of what makes it worthwhile to run is the benefits."

If you have questions about the March 2012 Municipal Election, call the Alamogordo City Clerk's Office at 575.439.4205.

CANDIDATE FILING DAY

By Renee Cantin, City Clerk

Commissioner seats in districts 1, 3, 5, & 7 will be up for election on March 6, 2012. Any registered elector of the City of Alamogordo may be a candidate for the office of City Commissioner. In addition to being a registered elector, candidates for the office of City Commissioner must have resided within the District they seek to represent for a period of not less than ninety (90) days prior to the date of filing for office.

Candidates wishing to file for office, and have their name appear on the ballot, must do so on **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2012, BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M., AT THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK.**

Write In Candidates must file on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, Between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., at the Office of the City Clerk. All prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the City Clerk at 575-439-4205 to receive a candidate packet.

Voting Eligibility

To be eligible to vote in this Election, you must be a registered elector whose registered address is within the City limits of Alamogordo. If you are not currently registered to vote, you must do so, with the Otero County Clerk, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. It is particularly important that your current address is correct as well. If you have moved since the time you registered to vote, you should change your voter registration to reflect your current address.

Non Resident Voting for G.O. Bond Question

A registered, nonresident municipal elector means any person who on the date of election, is a qualified, registered elector of Otero County but who is a resident of that portion of Otero County which is outside of the Alamogordo city limits, who has paid a property tax on property located within the City of Alamogordo during the year preceding the election and who has timely registered with the City Clerk of Alamogordo his or her intention to vote at the general obligation bond election by filing with the office of the City Clerk of Alamogordo a certificate of eligibility announcing his or her intention to vote at such election on the question of creating municipal debt. A nonresident municipal elector must file a certificate of eligibility with the City Clerk on or after Friday, January 6, 2012, but no later than Monday, February 20, 2012 to be eligible to vote.

Absentee Voting

Absentee voting on paper ballots through the mail will be available and can be obtained by contacting the office of the City Clerk. Absentee voting applications can be mailed beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 31, 2012, and Early Voting in person on electronic voting machines begins at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Absentee voting on paper ballots and on voting machines ends at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2012. Absentee voting will be conducted in the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 1376 E. Ninth Street, during regular business hours, which are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. **THERE WILL BE VOTING DURING THE NOON HOUR.**

Voting Convenience Centers

Voting Convenience Centers will be used for the March 2012 Election. This will change the polling places for all elections in 2012 to be held **ONLY** at: the Willie Estrada Memorial Civic Center, the Tays Special Events Center, and the Otero County Fairgrounds. We encourage the citizens to contact either the City Clerk's Office or the County Clerk's Office on any election day to confirm where the polling places are.



CITY COMMISSION

DISTRICT ONE

MARION L. LEDFORD
mledford@ci.alamogordo.nm.us

DISTRICT TWO

AARON RANCE
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DISTRICT THREE

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DISTRICT FOUR

JOSH RARDIN
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DISTRICT FIVE

JOE FERGUSON
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DISTRICT SIX

MAYOR PRO-TEM ED COLE
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DISTRICT SEVEN

MAYOR RON GRIGGS
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CITY MANAGER

MARK B. ROATH
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*For the most up to date information, visit <http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/coa/cityclerk/agendasandnotices.htm>

The Commission meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month (except November and December when they are held on the first and third Tuesday) at 7:30 in Commission Chambers located in City Hall. The agenda and past meeting minutes can be located at the city website: <http://ci.alamogordo.nm.us/>

Meetings are open to the public and anyone planning to attend, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the City Clerk at least 48 hours in advance at 575.439.4205.

The City Profile is a publication of the City of Alamogordo and is provided as a community service to City residents. The City Profile does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Comments, suggestions and unsolicited materials by Alamogordo residents, including reports by community groups and articles that

may contain opinion will be considered if sent to: wade@ci.alamogordo.nm.us or **Megan Wade**, Senior Executive Assistant, City Manager's Office, 1376 E. 9th St. Alamogordo, NM 88310. We reserve the right to edit all submitted entries for length, clarity, style, spelling, and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the City of Alamogordo.



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Happy New Year!

Alamogordo Resolutions

We asked City Employees what their resolutions were for the upcoming year and here are a few of their answers...

- DE-CLUTTER AND BECOME MORE ORGANIZED**
- GET IN SHAPE**
- ATTEND CHURCH MORE**
- Run A Marathon**
- Lose 25 lbs**
- Learn to have more patience**
- JUST TO SURVIVE ANOTHER YEAR!**

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 10 -
Candidate Filing Day
City Clerk's Office, 8am - 5pm

Tuesday, January 10 -
Regular Commission Meeting,
7:30 pm Commission Chambers

Monday, January 16 -
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
City Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 17 -
Write - In Candidate Filing Day
City Clerk's Office, 8am - 5pm

Tuesday, January 21 -
Regular Commission Meeting,
7:30 pm Commission Chambers

Alamogordo: Raising the 47 Star Flag

The Alamogordo Museum of History is the home of one of the very few remaining original 47 star United States flags. To kick off Alamogordo's Statehood Centennial celebration, the Tularosa Basin Historical Society is planning an event which will feature the flag.

The event will include statehood music and a ceremony with speeches given by selected dignitaries. Everyone is welcome and invited to come help us start celebrating our beautiful state!

For more information please contact:
Jean Killer (575) 434-4438



Mail to:
Resident or
Current
Occupant

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